



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

October 7, 1999

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Final Report on Regional Trends in Remedy Changes

FROM: Barry Breen, Director/s/
Office of Site Remediation Enforcement

TO: Director, Office of Site Remediation and Restoration, Region I
Director, Emergency and Remedial Response Division, Region II
Director, Hazardous Site Cleanup Division, Region III
Director, Waste Management Division, Region IV
Director, Superfund Division, Regions V, VI, VII, and IX
Assistant Regional Administrator, Office of Ecosystems Protection
and Remediation, Region VIII
Director, Office of Environmental Cleanup, Region X
Director, Office of Environmental Stewardship, Region I
Director, Environmental Accountability Division, Region IV
Regional Counsel, Regions II, III, V, VI, VII, IX, and X
Assistant Regional Administrator, Office of Enforcement, Compliance, and
Environmental Justice, Region VIII

OSRE has completed a study examining historical data on remedy changes, at both the national and regional levels, for evidence of a pattern of more frequent remedy changes at operable units (OUs) where PRPs settled and undertook cleanups than at OUs where EPA undertook cleanups. The attached report summarizes the data collected, discusses the methodology used in determining whether the rates of Fund-lead and PRP-lead remedy changes are significantly different, and discusses regional trends in remedy changes.

The study found that differences in remedy change rates at Fund-lead and PRP-lead are not statistically significant for the national program-to-date data, nor for each of the ten EPA regions for both ROD amendments and ESDs. In addition, the remedy change data provides no evidence of a general pattern of increased remedy change rates at PRP-lead OUs.

Both the remedy change data summaries created as part of this study and the Updating Remedy Decisions At Select Sites Summary Report (FY 1996 and FY 1997 Report) document

that the regions regularly provide the public with opportunity to participate in the remedy change process as required by CERCLA, the NCP, and EPA guidance.

OSRE would like to thank each region for providing the necessary information to complete this study. If you have any questions, please contact Yolaanda Walker at (202)564-4281.

Attachment

cc: Steve Luftig, Director, OERR
Branch Chiefs, Regions 1-10
Sandra Connors, RSD
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